

# DISPATCH

Inside

- ▶ CRAF exercise / 2
- ▶ Commentary / 8
- ▶ Education / 11
- ▶ Hockey / 15

Vol. 41, No. 3

437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, SC

Friday, Jan. 25, 2002



Photo by Staff Sgt. P. J. Farlin

## Powering up

Master Sgt. Lawrence Walker (right), a C-17 crew chief, and Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class James Turner, a jet engine mechanic, both from the 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron, place a new generator into the engine of a C-17 at Moron AB, Spain. These airmen, and many other Charleston AFB personnel, are deployed to locations worldwide in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

## Two C-17 EA squadrons established

By Capt. Beth Szucs  
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston-based C-17s and aircrews have set up two Expeditionary Airlift Squadrons at deployed locations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"The EAS concept is similar to what other career fields do for their AEF rotations," Col. Bob Allardice, 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group commander, explained. "Members deployed to these squadrons will be out for approximately 45 days and then rotated back here for training and, if it's available, time off. These squadrons will allow AMC to be even more effective in supporting our nation."

The squadrons are commanded by Lt. Col. Jim Barr, 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron director of operations, and Lt. Col. Pete

See EAS, page 3

## Servicemembers see change in BAS: Monthly entitlement eliminates daily rate

By Staff Sgt. Amy Parr  
Air Force Print News

Enlisted people are seeing a change in the way basic allowance for subsistence is added to their leave and earning statements.

Effective Jan. 1, BAS became a \$241.60 monthly entitlement, like officer BAS, for all enlisted people who have graduated from basic military training. For those who graduate after Jan. 1, BAS starts the day of graduation. Because this is a monthly rate, it will not fluctuate from month to month.

BAS will increase each January based on the annual percentage increase of U.S. Department of Agriculture food costs.

Enlisted people E-1 through E-6 permanently assigned to single-type

government quarters are entitled to BAS and may also be assigned to essential station messing, said Master Sgt. Tamra Miller, travel and contingency policy chief. This means they receive the BAS entitlement, but may be charged the discount meal rate for all meals made available by the government dining facility.

"Charges, at the discount meal rate, will be directly deducted from the member's pay account," she said. "Members directed to use the dining facility will have three meals a day deducted from their pay whether meals are eaten or not."

Meal rates deducted beginning Jan. 1, 2002, are: \$1.35 for breakfast and \$2.70 each for lunch and dinner. This will leave people on ESM an average residual amount of \$40 per month, which is slightly higher than partial-

rate BAS, Miller said.

However, not everyone living in a dormitory will be on ESM, Miller said.

"Exceptions may be made only when assigned duties prevent a member from being provided at least 80 percent of their government meals on a regular basis," she said. "If a member consistently misses more than 18 meals per month, the commander should consider removing them from ESM and allow BAS without deduction."

Commanders are required to demonstrate that meals are missed because of assigned duties. Some examples include the location of the person's residence; specialized duties such as band, honor guard or chauffeur; duty hours; and distance to a dining facility.

Before removing a person from

ESM, commanders must show that the person missed more than 20 percent of his or her meals for at least seven months in a 12-month period. However, commanders may forecast the 12-month period if historical data is not available, Miller said. This is appropriate when people under similar circumstances miss more than 20 percent of their meals on a consistent basis.

People assigned to ESM who miss meals because of assigned duties may still claim missed meals. Missed meals will be reimbursed on a per-meal basis at the rations-in-kind-not-available rate.

For ESM people, meal rates will also not be deducted during periods of regular and permissive temporary

See BAH, page 2

## IN THE NEWS

# 315 AES members trade-in C-17 for B-767 during 11-day CRAF exercise

By Debra Baldwin  
315 AW Public Affairs

Members of the 315<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron made history Jan. 14, when they participated in the first-ever Civil Air Reserve Fleet (CRAF) Aeromedical Evacuation training mission.

The mission gave them an opportunity to fly on a commercial Boeing 767 aircraft configured for medical evacuation. They were able to train and certify squadron members in this critical part of the nation's medical airlift support system.

The mission is dedicated to training total force aeromedical evacuation crewmembers and critical care air transport team members.

The historic 11-day CRAF exercise, aboard a US Airways 767, gave the 315 AES a unique opportunity to fly the civilian aircraft with installed aeromedical equipment and to train and certify AE crewmembers, critical care air transport team members and civilian flight crews.

The CRAF is made up of aircraft from U.S. airlines under contract to support the Department of Defense

during emergencies when the need for airlift exceeds the capability of the military.

They are "activated in (events such as) major theater war," said Maj. Lisa Dedecker, Air Mobility Command, Branch Chief AE concept development.

The exercise, which had never been done before, began at the Raytheon plant in Greenville, Texas, where the airplane was prepared for the mission. The CRAF carrier gutted the aircraft, and Raytheon took 36 hours to transform it into a flying ambulance.

"The floor of the aircraft is converted to include oxygen tanks, electrical supply, litter support stations and everything it needs to make it aeromedically capable," explained Maj. Lisa Perdue, officer-in-charge, AMC AE training. "The standard configuration is 87 litters and 37 seats, compared to the C-17 with 9 litters and 60 seats."

After leaving Texas, the plane flew to Scott AFB, Ill., and McChord AFB, Wash., before coming to Charleston. The 315 AES crew flew the next leg headed to Travis AFB, Calif., with the final two stops being Andrews AFB,

Md., and Kelly AFB, Texas.

"This is the first time we have actually flown with CRAF crews in a reconfigured 767 for the sole purpose of training aeromedical evacuation crew members, flight attendants and critical care teams," said Perdue.

In the past, crewmembers were only required to view a videotape on how the CRAF was set up, Perdue added.

Perdue said AMC and US Airways are creating standards for training aboard the 767.

"We are starting with a blank sheet of paper and will write the rules for how AMC will do business with the carriers," she said.

The exercise also provides the opportunity for total force training.

"All components of the Air Force are exercising, including active duty, Guard, Reserve, Air Force civilians, along with the US Airways flight crew," said Perdue.

In addition, representatives from the U.S. Army and Canadian Forces also participated.

"It was a great opportunity to exercise the (CRAF) system in place, the best part was interacting with the airline staff on their plane", said Staff

Sgt. Joanna Kelly, 315 AES medical technician.

Representatives of the CRAF carrier said they saw a lot of benefits coming from this exercise.

"From this, we will institute procedures and develop training to take back to the airline for future crews," said Mike McGovern, US Airways in-flight systems and policy procedures analyst.

McGovern said more than 1,600 employees volunteered to participate and only five were selected to form the airline's AE training team.

"The US Air staff were outstanding, truly an integral part of the team," said Col. Sharyn Roettger, 315 AES commander. "It was a great experience. The film doesn't do the training justice. The space is very tight, but everyone walked away more experienced and glad they participated."

AMC has aeromedical evacuation contracts with two airlines, US Airways and Delta, according to Department of the Air Force information. **(Some information for this article was taken from an AMC story by Staff Sgt. Scott Leas)**

## BAS

continued from page 1  
duty, leave or while a member is hospitalized in a uniform service medical treatment facility.

People automatically authorized to mess separately are E-7 to E-9; enlisted people residing with their command-sponsored family members; and military couples assigned to the same installation or adjacent installations who maintain common family quarters.

Other changes to BAS include the payment of the RIKNA rate. The Fiscal 1998 National Defense Authorization Act eliminated this payment upon the completion of reform. This year's act includes a provision to grandfather the rate.

"The RIKNA rate will not be subject to annual increases, but provisions to receive the rate are grandfathered until the regular BAS rate equals or exceeds the RIKNA rate," Miller said. "It's estimated to be eliminated by 2005."

This rate is \$262.50 per month.

Officers are also seeing a change in their BAS. Effective Jan. 1, the 1 percent growth cap for officer BAS is lifted. Officer BAS now increases annually by the same percentage as enlisted BAS. This rate is \$166.37 for 2002.

## W-2s are in the mail ... read them carefully

By Tech. Sgt.  
Tim Dougherty  
Air Force Print News

Air Force people who spent time in a newly recognized combat zone area during the last part of the year should carefully review their W-2, and they might need to wait for a corrected form W-2C to arrive, Air Force officials said.

W-2 forms were mailed Jan. 15.

"If you were entitled to combat zone tax exclusion during the final four months of 2001, we recommend you carefully review your W-2," said Col. Martha Beatty, Air Force accounting and finance office director. "If you feel there are errors, delay filing your tax return until you contact your local finance office and see if you need a corrected W-2."

The determination of CZTE and personnel system problems caused many pay records to update late, Beatty said. A statement on January leave and earnings statements will remind people about the potential for errors.

President Bush signed an executive order Sept. 19 that

designated Afghanistan and the airspace above it as a combat zone. Air Force people directly supporting operations in Afghanistan from other locations may also be eligible for CZTE if they are receiving imminent danger pay or hostile fire pay.

The Internal Revenue Service established a toll-free telephone number for military people or their families to call with any tax questions that may arise. Callers will not be limited to asking combat zone-related tax questions. The number is (866) 562-5227.

A recent letter sent out by the IRS to about 50,000 military people caused confusion about CZTE.

"The primary purpose of the letter was to update IRS records to ensure that certain extensions are allowed and that other types of actions are not taken against members who are serving in a combat zone," Beatty said.

Although the IRS is drafting a follow-up letter that will be sent to try to clear up any confusion, the best advice is to simply disregard the original letter, Beatty said.

## Thunderbirds to perform at CAFB Annual air show, open house slated for June 23

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds recently released their 2002 schedule, and Charleston AFB made the list. CAFB's annual Air Expo is scheduled for June 23, with the Thunderbirds as the star act.

The Thunderbirds squadron is an Air Combat Command unit composed of eight pilots (including six demonstration pilots), four support officers, three civilians and more than 130 enlisted personnel performing in 25 career fields.

A Thunderbirds air demonstration is a mix of formation flying and solo routines. The four-aircraft diamond formation demonstrates the training and precision of Air Force pilots, while the solo aircraft highlight the maximum capabilities of the F-16.

The pilots perform approximately 30 maneuvers in a demonstration. The entire show, including ground and air, runs about an hour and fifteen minutes. The season lasts from March to November, with the winter months used to train new members.

The squadron performs no more than 88 air demonstrations each year and has never canceled a demonstration due to maintenance difficulty.

More information about this year's air expo will be released as it is made available. Check the *Airlift Dispatch* for updates. **(Information for this article was taken from the Thunderbirds official fact sheet.)**





Photo by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

## Paying tribute

Team Charleston members step off for the 2nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Walk, held Monday to honor King, a very influential civil rights leader. About 150 people participated in the walk, which started in the Charleston Club parking lot and traveled down Hill Boulevard to the Base Chapel for a commemorative service. Charleston AFB also celebrated King's life with a brunch Sunday at the Charleston Club featuring a performance by the Jubilee Choir from Mt. Moriah Baptist Church.

## EAS

continued from page 1

Hirneise, 17<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron commander.

"Hopefully the squadron structure we have set up out there will allow us to keep it manned at a certain level and allow us to rotate people back," said Allardice. "While at the same time our expectation should be that our people will be very busy for a very long time."

Increasing the size of the deployed operations staff was necessary according to Hirneise. "The current folks have done an amazing job with such a small staff," Hirneise said. "But this now enables us to take care of crews so they can operate down-range in a manner in which they deserve."

Another benefit to the EAS concept is the up-to-date information for aircrews.

"These squadrons are there to provide the planning, training and oversight that the squadron would normally perform back in the United States," said Allardice. "Now they can now perform at a forward located base so they can focus on the operation at hand and provide the most up-to-date tactics and intelligence to the crews before they fly."

The squadrons are working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in a stage, taking cargo and personnel into Afghanistan after it has been brought to their location by C-5s and C-17s from the United States, said Barr.

He said he has 66 people from the 437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group maintaining and launching aircraft around the clock, supplying the parts and providing aircrew transportation.

"Having the combined operations

and logistics efforts under one squadron streamlines the efforts and better enables the squadron commander to take care of all deployed personnel," said Barr.

"Maj. Gen. (Roger) Brady (Air Mobility Command director of operations) just visited and looked at the job we are doing here," said Barr. "He was so impressed that he wants to institutionalize our process."

Col. Allardice agrees that CAFB has been successful in all of their operations since the beginning of OEF.

"When general officers come watch us they often comment, 'Boy, you sure make this look easy.' And they do," said Allardice. "Our guys make it look easy, but it is not easy. It is incredibly difficult to do this right."

Many of the people who were involved at the beginning, with the humanitarian airdrop and the night operations into Camp Rhino are now deployed and planning the operations currently underway, said Allardice. He said there is incredible talent in the aircrews and it has been increasing in the months prior to this operation. That is just adding to the overall success.

"We are really maturing in the way that we employ the airplane," said Allardice. "It takes a lot of energy and a lot of effort to plan these sorties into Afghanistan. We don't have a cloaking device in the C-17. What we have are great crew members who spend a lot of time, working and training hard, making sure they avoid the threats."

There is a third EAS staffed by McChord AFB, Wash., personnel, said Allardice. Both McChord AFB and CAFB are working their aircrew rotations, leave, and crew rest policies similarly.

# RODEO postponed until 2003

By Staff Sgt. Scott Leas

AMC News Service Editor

Gen. John W. Handy, commander of Air Mobility Command, announced that due to current operations tempo, Air Mobility RODEO 2002 is postponed. A projected date for RODEO 2003 is June 21-28 at McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Air Mobility RODEO is AMC's biennial international readiness competition, showcasing airdrop, air refueling, aeromedical evacuation, security forces competition, assault landings and related ground operations. More than 100 teams and 2,500 people compete from more than 300 active duty Air Force, Air Force Reserve Command, Air National Guard, U.S. Army units and allied nations.

"RODEO is an important air mobility tradition, and one we will not abandon," said Handy. "However, our current OPTEMPO is likely to preclude meeting mission requirements while preparing a first class RODEO event. Many people worked hard to make RODEO happen. Your efforts are not in vain, and will be reflected in our next RODEO, which will be the best ever."

Maj Steve Janeczko, RODEO 2003 Command Project Officer explains that planning has not stopped.

"We are still working on getting everything ready for RODEO. Postponing it until June 2003 just ensures that we make it the best RODEO ever. The McChord host-base and AMC staff are still committed to this great event," said Janeczko.

Specific information about RODEO 2003 can be found on the Internet at <https://amc.scott.af.mil/do/dov/rodeo.htm>.

# Support group services keep morale high at EAS

By Capt. Beth Szucs

437 AW Public Affairs

As Charleston AFB personnel set up Expeditionary Airlift Squadrons, one unit is settling into a toned down lifestyle of tents, cots and roommates.

Charleston deployed more than 150 people to this location, including aircrews, maintainers and an operations staff, said Lt. Col. Jim Barr, deployed commander and 437<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron director of operations. They are living in a tent city with a robust support group that's providing great services.

Master Sgt. Timothy Lomas, deployed first sergeant and 14<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron first sergeant, credits the outstanding services to troops deployed from Barksdale AFB, La., Nellis AFB, Nev., and Travis AFB, Calif.

"If it wasn't for the great services and support structure, provided by the support group, this place would be pretty miserable," said Lomas.

The base, which can't be named for security reasons, was in care-taker status before troops were deployed there shortly after Sept. 11.

"The chow hall used to have vehicles parked in it and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building hadn't been used for 10 years," said Lomas.

Now, the MWR building has a computer room with 60 computers, a library, a gym, a barber shop, and small shoppette.

He said it is nice that they can get

free haircuts and uniform cleanings since they aren't receiving much per diem.

The sleeping arrangements consist of green tents, with air conditioning tubes running through them, said Lomas. They're sleeping on cots and everyone is issued sheets, a pillow and a comforter to make it feel a little more like home.

Lomas said Staff Sgt. Brittney Goodroe-Miller, deployed information manager, has been doing a great job working to keep up morale for the entire unit.

He said together they just organized their first squadron picnic which included a patch contest. Because bicycles are in high demand, the winner was given the use of a bicycle for a month. Other individuals who entered a drawing for the contest received a 5-pack of their drink of choice.

As for future functions, Lomas said, there will not be a lack of things to do. They are planning an ice cream social for next week and plan on having some type of function every two weeks. He hopes these events will help keep the troops from getting burned out.

"It's wet," said Lomas, referring to weather they've gotten this year. "It's hot as heck and humid!"

But, he said, despite the weather, people are in high spirits.

"Morale is good, and operations are starting to pick up," said Barr. "Everybody's excited to get the stuff to the fight."

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Spotlight

**Awards banquet:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. This year's theme is "Celebrating the American Spirit," and the guest speaker will be former Vietnam prisoner of war, retired Col. Willard Gideon. Valet parking will be available, and donations will be accepted. Tickets are available from first sergeants and cost \$19 for club members and \$22 for non-members.

**ALS graduates:** The following senior airmen graduated with Airman Leadership School class 02-B: Hector Lopez-DeJesus, 437<sup>th</sup> Contracting Squadron, and Christopher Comeau, Kwame Felton, Eugene Guse and Jason Maldonado, all from the 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron. Their names were mistakenly left out of the write-up in the Jan. 11 edition of the *Airlift Dispatch*.

**Black History Month:** The opening ceremony of Black History Month is scheduled for Feb. 1, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. The guest speaker will be Col. Clarence Johnson, director of military equal opportunity. For more information, call Master Sgt. Terry Grant at 963-2445.

**Induction ceremony:** The 2002 Chiefs' Induction Ceremony will be held Feb. 2, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. All chief master sergeant selectees for 2002 will be honored. Chiefs and squadron commanders are invited, and spouses are welcome. Attendees may invite as many guests as desired. Cost is \$20 per person. Dress for the evening is mess dress or semi-formal. For more information or to RSVP, call Staff Sgt. Julie Buie at 963-5497.

## Around the base

**CSAF survey:** The Air Force chief of staff wants to know what changes Air Force people want in their organizations, and what those people think of the leaders they work for, from the squadron level through higher headquarters. To find out, the Chief of Staff survey is going on now. Air Force members may go to <http://csafsurvey.af.mil/> from a government computer or to [www.csafsurvey.com](http://www.csafsurvey.com) from a home computer to complete the survey now-Mar. 8. The process takes about 45 minutes to complete, and surveys started on the .com site must be completed on the .com site.

**Tobacco cessation:** The Health and Wellness Center is offering a tobacco cessation class starting Thursday, 5 p.m., at the HAWC, and meeting one hour each week for five weeks. For more information or to sign up for the class, call 963-4007.

**Friendship Sunday:** The Base Chapel is hosting a Friendship Sun-

day, encouraging people to bring a friend to Sunday school, Sunday, 9:30 a.m., at the Christian Education Building, Bldg. 245, 103 Davis Dr. For more information, call 963-2536.

**OSA scholarship:** The Officers' Spouses' Association is offering the Silver Wings Scholastic Assistance Awards to dependents of both officers and enlisted members stationed at Charleston AFB. Also eligible are those living in the Charleston area who are dependents of active duty members stationed elsewhere. Scholarships are available for both high school seniors and military spouses attending college. Applications are available at the Community Education and Family Support Centers and must be postmarked by Feb. 25 for consideration. For more information, call Ruth King at 207-9686.

**ESC scholarship:** The Enlisted Support Club is offering their Scholarship Assistance Awards to graduating high school seniors who are dependents of enlisted military members stationed at Charleston AFB. Applications are available at the Family Support Center and must be turned in by March 25. For more information, call Amanda Ambrose at 963-5780 or Crystal Hampton at 207-0123.

**Hunters:** Due to increased security, the hunting program at North Auxiliary Air Field has been suspended until further notice. Individuals who purchased hunting permits for this

program are eligible to have their permit fees refunded. For more information, call the 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Office at 963-4976, or visit the office on the first floor of Bldg. 247.

**TRICARE:** The Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator is a congressionally mandated initiative, implemented by the TRICARE Management Activity to improve customer service and satisfaction, enhance beneficiary education and help reduce the volume of congressional inquiries from beneficiaries. BCACs act as a preventative mechanism for troubleshooting TRICARE and Military Health System issues and concerns. For more information, contact the 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group TRICARE Flight at 963-6710.

**TRICARE:** The position of Debt Collection Assistance Officer was established at all military treatment facilities worldwide to help customers understand and get assistance with debt collection problems. Anyone receiving a notice from a collection agency or a negative credit report because of a medical or dental bill should contact the 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group TRICARE Flight at 963-6710.

**AFAS grant:** The Air Force Aid Society's General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant awards \$1,500 grants to children of active-duty members, Title 10 Active Guard Reserve or Reserve members, Title 32 AGR performing

full-time active duty, retired military members, retired reservists with 20 or more qualifying years of service and deceased Air Force members; spouses (residing stateside) of active-duty or Title 10 AGR/Reserve members on extended active duty; and surviving spouses of deceased members. For more information or to receive an application, call the AFAS office at 963-4406, or visit the Family Support Center. Additional information is also available online at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org).

**Supply:** The 437<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron Customer Service Center is the point of contact for unit supply needs. The center researches national stock numbers, issues SATS cards and checks the status of particular items. For more information, call 963-4826.

**DRMO:** The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office can help meet mission requirements. All Department of Defense organizations can screen free, excess assets at [www.drms.dla.mil](http://www.drms.dla.mil). For more information, call 963-4826.

## Family Support Center

**Troops-to-Teachers:** Monday, 10-11 a.m.

**Smart Women Finish Rich:** Tuesday, 6-8 p.m.

**SMOOTH Move:** Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-noon.

All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

## Charleston Profile

### Staff Sgt. David Barlow 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Camera Squadron

Staff Sgt. David Barlow is a videographer/editor in the 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Camera Squadron.

In December Barlow was awarded the Government Video Star Award by Government Video Magazine for the work he did at the Pentagon in the days immediately following the attacks of Sept. 11. This honor was given to three Air Force members and posthumously to a videographer from the New York Police Department who was killed in the attacks.

Barlow and Staff Sgt. Larry Simmons, also from the 1<sup>st</sup> CTCS, showed up at the Pentagon at 6 a.m., Sept. 12 and went to work. Barlow was the only videographer allowed into the Pentagon and took footage that aired on all the major networks, including CNN and Fox News.

He said they were escorted everywhere they went by the FBI, safety structure people and a few others. They were only allowed in certain areas because some parts of the building were still too hot from the fire.

"It was pretty spooky at first," said Barlow. "It took me 30 or 40 minutes to adjust. It was my most memorable TDY yet. I'll never forget it. I'll probably tell my grandkids about it."

Barlow, a native of Wellsville, N.Y., has been at Charleston since 1996, spending one of the past six years taking classes at Syracuse University.

Since Barlow is deployed more than 150 days a year, he enjoys spending his free time with his wife of 11 years, Lynda, and his daughters, Hannah, 10, and Lauren, 5, and doing outdoor activities such as fishing and gardening.



Photo by Staff Sgt. [Name obscured]

## COMMENTARY

## Black History Month activities to begin soon

## About the paper

AIRLIFT  
Dispatch

Published by Diggle Publishing, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military service.

Contents of the *Airlift Dispatch* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, Air Force, or Diggle Publishing, Inc., of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. All photos are Air Force photos unless identified otherwise.

## Deadlines

The deadline for submitting stories for space-available publication is noon Friday, preceding the desired publication date. The *Airlift Dispatch* reserves the right to edit all copy submitted for publication.

## Advertising

Classified advertisements may be referred to Diggle Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 2014, Mount Pleasant, S.C., 29465, Phone: (843) 849-1778 or e-mailed to [sales@islandpapers.com](mailto:sales@islandpapers.com). Classified advertisements are free, with the exception of personal business ads, for active duty military members and their spouses, retirees and Reservists.

## Address/Numbers

Editorial content is prepared by the 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 1600, Rm. 223.

Phone: (843) 963-5608

Fax: (843) 963-5604

Mail to: 437 AW PAI

102 East Hill Blvd.

Charleston AFB, SC 29404-5154

or send to:

[dispatch@charleston.af.mil](mailto:dispatch@charleston.af.mil)

## Editorial Staff

437 AW Commander  
**Brig. Gen. Vern M. "Rusty" Findley II**

Chief, Public Affairs  
**Lt. Col. Edmund Memi**

NCOIC Internal  
**Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter**

Staff Writer  
**Senior Airman Jason Smith**

Photo Support  
**Base Visual Information Center**

By **Col. Karl Young**  
*437AW vice commander*

I want to reiterate my thanks to Team Charleston for their outstanding support of the Curtin Evaluation Team visit last Friday. I know we impressed the evaluators. We should know the results in the next two weeks.

I'm convinced we did everything within our power to highlight our outstanding civil engineers. Regardless of whether we win or lose, I was thoroughly impressed with how everyone pulled together to help despite the fact that we are supporting a major war effort. We really got together, and the teamwork truly impressed the evaluators. Thanks for the outstanding effort! It makes me proud to be associated with a wing that will go above and beyond to help one another.

We had an outstanding Sunday brunch in the Charleston Club. We had a special performance during brunch by the Jubilee Choir from the Mount Moriah Baptist Church. The choir was inspirational and a joy to listen to. Please take advantage of future brunches. They are outstanding.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Walk on Monday was also a great success, and I was pleased to see so many young people participating in this event. Again, the Mount Moriah Choir performed during a chapel service immediately following the unity walk. We were also treated to a speech by Judge Richard Ganaway. Judge Ganaway talked about how American civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. emphasized the importance of working together, the need for unity for all people and focused on the peaceful process for change. He concluded his remarks by reciting Dr. King's famous Aug. 28, 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech.

In the summer of 1963, King and other black leaders organized the March on Washington to protest racial discrimination against black Americans. After more than 200,000 civil rights supporters marched to the Lincoln Memorial, King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, calling upon the nation to guarantee the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Judge Ganaway's remarks were very moving and a fitting a tribute to a man Americans admire.

The opening ceremony for Black History Month will be a luncheon on Feb. 1 at 11 a.m. in the Charleston Club. The guest speaker will be Col. Clarence Johnson, the Director of Military Equal Opportunity. Everyone is invited, and the cost of the lunch for club members is \$9. We are hoping for a good turn out.

Other planned Black History Month events include a Feb. 16 Children's Basketball tournament at 10 a.m. in the Sports and Fitness Center; an Aerobics Superjam in the Sports and Fitness Center Feb. 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and the closing ceremony will be held Mar. 21 in the Charleston Club at 6:30 p.m. The guest speaker for the closing ceremony will be Dr. Donald West. There will also be a health fair, and details will be announced once finalized. Please mark your calendar now for these exciting events.

Charleston has had an inactive Air Force Association chapter for quite some time, until now. Col. **Dave Snodgrass**, 437<sup>th</sup> Support Group commander, has volunteered to become the chapter's president and plans to hold its first meeting and luncheon Feb. 6 at 11:30 a.m. in the Charleston Club. Additionally, Col. **James Joyce**, 315<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group commander, has volunteered to become the reactivated chapter's vice president and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. **Sara Fisher**, 437<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, has volunteered to become the chapter secretary.

The Charleston area has more than 600 AFA members, and the AFA leadership has been reluctant to close the chapter. The nearly 150,000-member AFA, formed after World War II, is an independent, nonprofit, civilian

organization primarily concerned with public understanding and acceptance of the pivotal role a well-manned, well-equipped and well-trained Air Force plays in the security of the nation and its allies and the relevance of overall American military strength to global peace.

Everyone is invited to attend the chapter's first meeting and the cost for the luncheon for club members is only \$9. Please reserve your seat by calling 963-2200.

It was my honor again to recognize the wing's quarterly award recipients for October through December at Wednesday's luncheon in the Charleston Club. Award recipients included Capt. **Colin Huckins**, 437<sup>th</sup> Mission Support Squadron, Senior Company Grade Officer category; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. **Corey Ringhisen**, 437<sup>th</sup> Medical Group, Junior CGO category; Master Sgt. **Sarah Coleman-Lee**, 437 MG, Senior NCO category; Staff Sgt. **Mark Swieszcz**, 437<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineer Squadron, NCO category; Staff Sgt. **Brian Sharman**, 437 CES, Airman category; Senior Airman **Damien Tymes**, 437<sup>th</sup> MG, Honor Guard airman category; **Carl Goad**, 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, Civilian Category 1; and **Frank Metzger**, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Plans, Civilian Category 2. Congratulations on your achievement!

We all know that there is a war going on, but some of us have fallen behind in our paperwork for the Government Travel Card reimbursements. We were recently listed by the command as one of the five worst for timely payments. About 11.28 percent of our dollars spent were considered delinquent for December. The Air Force goal is to keep this percentage at 5 percent or below. The average for the command was 8.64 percent for December.

We are presently back in good health, but this episode served as a good reminder that falling behind in filing our travel vouchers and paying those bills can result in some frequent and hefty automatic penalties. We still have to take care of business while keeping the delinquency numbers down.

I ask everyone to give this your full attention so that Bank of America does not penalize our people. We can place certain members in mission critical status to avoid some of these problems, especially when they are in remote locations. Please work with the 437<sup>th</sup> Comptroller Squadron before those payment problems occur. They stand ready and willing to assist. Our base expert is 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. **Andy Grabb** at 963-3693. Please also work with your squadron Agency Program Coordinator representative regarding any Government Travel Card issues.

The base school committee met Tuesday evening in the Family Support Center and hosted an open forum for parents, schools and base agencies. This particular forum focused on education at the middle school level. Although the turnout was not as good as we had hoped, we will continue to host these events to assist our family members with their education needs. A special thanks to Senior Master Sgt. **Allan Harris** for his efforts. If you are interested in getting involved, then please contact Harris at 963-2202.

During Monday's staff meeting, we discussed some of the crime trends over the past year. Overall, crime is down on the base, and that is a good sign. We also concluded that most people who drink and drive are caught at one of our gates. Not surprisingly, most thefts occur for property that is unsecured. For the thief, it is just too much of a temptation. Bottomline: if you want to keep your property don't leave it lying around on a desk or in an unlocked car.

I'll close my column with congratulations to everyone for all their hard work during the past few weeks. We've been busy with missions overseas. If you read the article on page one of the *Airlift Dispatch*, you'll have a better idea of their hard work to accomplish our mission in a superb manner daily. Thank you for your outstanding efforts!



## Off duty--Around town



### Sports:

**Stingrays:** Next home game Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m., vs. Augusta. For more information, call 554-6060.

**Lowgators:** Tuesday, 7 p.m., vs. Huntsville. For more information, call 764-4013 or 416-1162.

### Entertainment:

**Live music:** Cosmic Charlie performs tonight, 10 p.m. at the Music Farm, 32 Ann St. Tickets are \$8. For more information, call 722-8904.

**Comedy:** The Have Nots! perform improv comedy tonight and Saturday, 8 p.m., at Theatre 99, 30 Cumberland St. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 853-6687 or go to [www.etix.com](http://www.etix.com).

**Theater:** Footlight Players present "Master Class," Terrence McNalley's Tony Award-winning play, tonight, Saturday and Thursday-Feb 2, 8 p.m. There will also be a show Sunday at 3 p.m. Performances take place in the Footlight Players Theatre at 20 Queen St. Call 722-4487 for tickets.

**Theater:** The Village Playhouse, 730 Coleman Blvd., presents David Mamet's children's play "The Frog Prince," which illustrates the universal themes of arrogance, vanity, false pride, loyalty and love, tonight and Feb. 1, 7 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, 3 p.m., and Feb. 3, 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 856-1579

**Theater:** Performances of "Romeo and Juliet," William Shakespeare's immortal classic of two star crossed lovers are going on tonight, Saturday, Feb. 1-2 and 7-8, 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 3 and 9, 3 p.m., at the Dock Street Theatre, 135 Church St. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors

and \$10 for students. For more information, call 577-5967.

**Live music:** Quench performs Saturday, 10 p.m., at the Music Farm, 32 Ann St. Tickets are \$5. For more information, call 722-8904.

**Live music:** l'Onissimo! performs music by J.S. Bach and Charles Ancliff on piano, flute, cello and violin Sunday, 4 p.m., at 32 Sowell St., Mount Pleasant. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 849-8481.

### Events:

**Book signing:** Author Sue Monk Kidd signs and discusses "The Secret Life of Bees" tonight, 5:30-8 p.m., at the Studio at Phoebe Pember House, 297 East Bay St. The event is free. For more information, call 722-4186.

**African-American symposium:** A two-day symposium, "African-American Arts: Preserving a Cultural Legacy," discussing the culture reflected in the work of African-American artists, writers, and performers is scheduled for today and Saturday at Gibbes Museum, 135 Meeting St. Space is limited, and registration is required. Call 722-2706, Ext. 23 for more information.

**Auction:** The College of Charleston's Cougar Club holds a live and silent auction Saturday, 7 p.m., in the Blackbaud Building atrium. The auction features an old-fashioned tailgate menu, open bar and live music. Items up for bid include an all-inclusive trip to the Winter Olympics. Tickets are \$50. For more information, call 953-6550.

**Book sale:** Fiction, non-fiction and children's books will be on sale Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Goose Creek Library, 325 Old Moncks Corner Rd.

**Listings are published on a space-available basis at the discretion of the editor of the Airlift Dispatch. Events listed are subject to change without notice. Those interested in attending an event should call ahead to confirm the date and time. To submit an event for Off duty, send a fax with all pertinent information and a call-back number to 963-5604.**

## FEATURE

# Community Education Center helps connect airmen to their futures

*Programs, counseling, tuition assistance are only a phone call away for CAFB members*

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter

437 AW Public Affairs

**M**oney for education is probably one of the top reasons young people enlist in the Air Force. But, when it comes down to the numbers, it seems they aren't getting that education after all.

The Community Education Center has a wide variety of programs and services to help the 77 percent of enlisted members without an undergraduate degree and 75 percent of officers without a graduate degree who aren't using the education benefits they're entitled to, according to Diana Roebuck, education center director.

"Currently the Air Force will pay up to \$3,500 per year in tuition assistance," Roebuck said. "That's a very generous cap. Anybody going to school can receive 75 percent of the cost of his course. Right now, the maximum per semester hour is \$187.50, which covers most of our schools here on base. If you look at all the courses taken over the year, that's where you get the \$3,500 cap."

Last year, the center doled out \$545,000 in tuition assistance, according to Roebuck.

"I'd love to see it hit a million," she said.

One of the hurdles the center faces in hitting the million-dollar mark in tuition assistance is getting people involved with and enrolled in their post-secondary education, according to Roebuck.

"Over 2,300 people on base don't have any degree at all," Roebuck said. "The first step is the CCAF (Community College of the Air Force) degree."

To attain their associate degree from CCAF, Roebuck said military members should first set up an appointment with an education counselor.

"We have a brand new counselor, Elizabeth Connell, who recently completed her internship in Hawaii," Roebuck said. "She's a dynamic asset to us because she has experienced earning a degree as an adult and while following around her husband, who was active duty Army. We also have a contractual CCAF counselor, Kim Folk, who is available Monday -Thursday from 12:30-4:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m.-noon."

"Before using tuition assistance, you need to talk to a counselor to set up an education map," Roebuck continued. "You set up where you want to go. The counselors are trained to get you there in the most efficient, effective way possible. They also try to reduce the anxiety some adults may feel in going back to school."

Roebuck noted that some adults may not see post-secondary education as the best use of their spare time, but in actuality, she said it pays huge dividends over the long run, affecting career progression, expanding horizons and providing vocational opportunities after separation or retirement from the Air Force.

One path counselors may advise in obtaining what Roebuck refers to as the pivotal CCAF degree are the College Level Examination Program and the Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support tests. CLEP and DANTES examinations grant college credits based on how well a student does on a test. Exams are available in a number of subjects, and may be used to complete much of the CCAF degree program.

The education center administers these tests Tuesday-Thursday, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Roebuck said she recommends CLEP and DANTES as a first line of attack.

To help students do well on the exams, the center offers study guides online. These guides can be accessed from the base network at <http://globemaster/437sptg/437mss/CLEPGuides/>.

The other option given to CCAF seekers is City Colleges of Chicago, according to Roebuck. The college offers the courses needed for the CCAF degree and also allows students to transfer credits to one of their degree programs. City Colleges of Chicago offers associate degrees in Arts, Science, Applied Science and General Studies. Terms are eight weeks long, with five terms each year.

According to Mike Deddish, assistant area coordinator for City Colleges of Chicago, the school currently offers courses at the Naval Weapons Station, Navy Hospital and on base. He said the school is currently trying to expand to meet the needs of base personnel, some of whom work shifts, by offering courses in the morning, afternoon and evening.

Deddish said the school grants credit for basic training, professional military education and technical school. It also awards credit for CLEP

and DANTES examinations. Students at City Colleges of Chicago may earn up to 30 credits by meeting minimum score requirements on CLEP and DANTES tests. Up to 45 credits may be transferred to the college, and students may still obtain an associate's degree. Another option is video courses, which can be taken outside the regular term, but must be completed within 12 weeks.

"We also give unit classes," Deddish said. "Combat camera (1st Combat Camera Squadron) used this option. As long as there are eight students, we will teach the course outside the standard semester."

Once students complete their CCAF, City Colleges of Chicago allows for the easy transfer of credits to either of the other two schools located at the education center, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and Southern Illinois University.

According to Jim Jurewicz, ERAU director, the school has 130 centers worldwide, which means Charleston AFB members who start the program here have a great chance of seeing the school if they PCS. The school offers the traditional Associate and Bachelor of Science degrees in Professional Aeronautics or Aviation Business Administration, and a "management plus," or business degree, in Management of Technical Operations. The school also offers a Master of Aeronautical Science degree with seven different specializations available.

Embry Riddle also offers several excellence award programs to help airmen pursue their education, according to Jurewicz. Last year the center donated more than \$17,000 in ERAU Excellence Scholarship Awards to base military and civilian quarterly and annual award winners. The center also provides scholarships to Airman Leadership School award winners and AAFES gift certificates to the base Diamond Sharp Award winners.

Aeronautical and management studies aren't for everyone, and for those whose interests lie elsewhere, Southern Illinois University offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Workforce Education and Development. Students with a CCAF degree may qualify for the Capstone option, which reduces the university's core curriculum requirements from 41 to a total of 30 semester hours, according to SIU director Dr. Marty Davis.

Coursework for the professional sequence in SIU's program can be completed in one year, up to 44 credit hours may be awarded for military training and experience.

Additionally, SIU offers this degree in an alternating weekend format to accommodate the busy schedule of the adult student, according to Davis.

One thing all three representatives said is important is starting early in the career, rather than putting education off.

"Generally we see a lot of seasoned enlisted people who put off getting degree until they're at the 16, 17, 18 year point," said Jurewicz. "Then they come in with a crisis saying 'I need to get a degree, what can I do?' If you don't wait until you're a master sergeant to start working on a degree, you'll be in better shape."

"You have a lot more responsibility as a tech (technical) or master sergeant than you do as an airman, plus you have a family and kids, soccer and t-ball games on top of your supervisory duties," he continued. "When you have to juggle all that, it gets to be a wild ride to finish a degree."

Jurewicz noted it isn't only enlisted people who put off higher education. He said young lieutenants and new captains should work to get their master's degree as soon as they can, rather than waiting until it's time for promotion boards.

"Don't wait," he said. "It only gets harder."

Deddish agreed with Jurewicz.

"There's that expression, 'a college degree may not mean much if you have it, but it means the world if you don't,'" Deddish said. "That's pretty much true."

Enlisted personnel earning their bachelor's degree now may have a better chance at commissioning too, according to Roebuck. Last year, 78 percent of CAFB enlisted members who applied for commissioning programs were accepted. The center will hold a commissioning briefing Mar. 2 for those interested in trading their stripes for bars.

With all of the programs, services and help available at the education center, airmen should have no problem spending that \$3,500 per year education benefit. It's just a matter of getting started down the road to future success.

## Services available at CAFB education center

- Education counseling
- College representatives
- CLEP and DANTES testing
- Math CLEP preparatory course
- Commissioning briefings
- Study Skills course

For more information, call Community Education Center customer assistance at 963-4575

# Uniformed Services Thrift Savings Plan offers many tax benefits; Thursday last day to sign up for program before open season ends

Officials are hoping that tax benefits will convince people to take advantage of the Uniformed Services Thrift Savings Plan before the open season ends Jan. 31.

Program benefits include contributions from pre-tax dollars, accumulation of tax-deferred earnings, and compounding interest. Contributors also receive additional tax savings from the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

People who participate in the TSP during tax years 2002 through 2006 may be eligible for a tax credit (called The Saver's Credit) for each year they contribute to the plan, said Maj. Jeffrey T. Keef, chief of Air Force military estate and special pays policy at the Pentagon.

This credit is for individuals with incomes up to

\$25,000, \$37,500 for head of household, and married couples with incomes up to \$50,000.

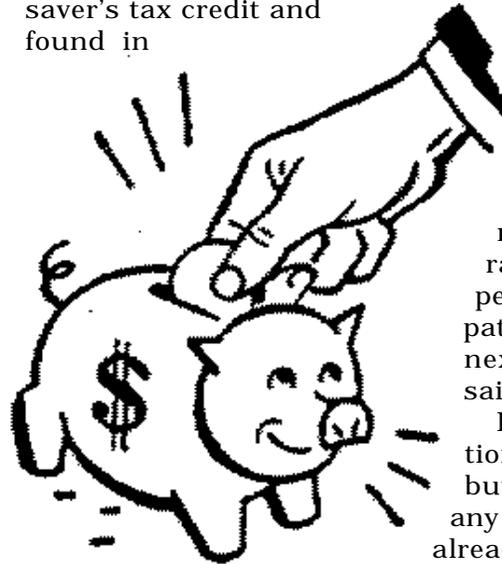
The taxpayer must also be 18 years of age, not a full-time student, and not claimed as a dependent on another person's return, according to Barbara Lang, personal finance manager at the Family Support Center here.

For married couples who file a joint return, the maximum credit is 50 percent of each taxpayer's contribution up to \$2,000, which would amount to a combined credit of \$2,000. For single people, the maximum credit is \$1,000.

"In effect, the government would be returning to some participants up to half of their contributions in the form of tax credits," Keef said. "This amounts to free money for some of our mem-

bers who should really be giving this a serious look."

The amount of the tax credit may be offset by any taxable distribution paid directly to them by the TSP. This benefit, called the saver's tax credit and found in



Internal Revenue Code section 25B, phases out at an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 if married filing

jointly, \$37,500 if head of household, or \$25,000 if single or married filing separately.

Similar credits are available to people who contribute to an individual retirement account or similar plan.

More information on the saver's tax credit is available on the Internet.

Another important reason to sign up now rather than later affects people who are anticipating bonuses during the next few months, Keef said.

Even though an election for bonus pay contributions can be made at any time, people must have already enrolled in TSP during an open season in order to make an election for a bonus.

Combat zone tax exempt pay is not subject to the

\$11,000 elective deferral limit, Keef said.

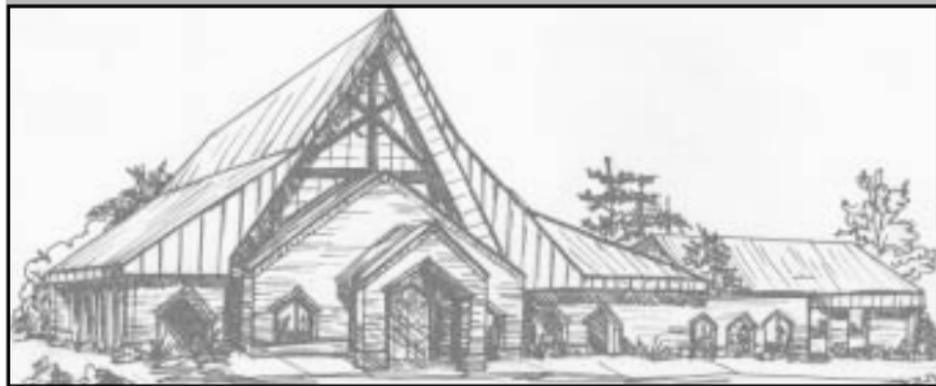
This means that people who qualify for it may make higher contributions from incentive, special and bonus pays. Therefore, people who anticipate deploying to a combat zone tax exempt area after the close of the open season may also want to consider signing up before the current season expires.

The next open season will be May 15 through July 31.

There are two ways to sign up for TSP. People can submit a form, which is at the finance or military personnel flight, to their financial services office.

The easier option is to make an election via the Internet by visiting the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Web site. For specifics on how to sign up via the Internet, contact Lang at 963-5448. (AFPN)

## Chapel schedule



**107 Arthur Drive**

**Office hours:** 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

**Phone:** 963-2536. After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

### **Catholic Services**

**Saturday** -- 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass.

**Sunday** -- 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church.

**Weekdays** -- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. For Sacrament of Marriage, call the Catholic chaplain six months prior to the wedding.

### **Protestant Services**

**Sunday** -- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m. Children's Church.

**Thursday** -- 7 p.m. Praise and Worship contemporary service.

**Buddhist:** Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

**Orthodox:** Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

**Jewish:** Call Jewish Lay Leader: Senior Airman David Winner at 963-2676.

**Islamic:** Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

## Movie schedule

### **Admission prices:**

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

Any child under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor child to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



**Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.**

### **Today, 7:30 p.m.**

#### **"Behind Enemy Lines" – Gene Hackman**

A Navy pilot is shot down over enemy territory and struggles to survive the pursuit of a ruthless secret police enforcer, a deadly tracker and countless hostile troops. The injured pilot's commanding officer goes against orders to carry out a desperate rescue mission. **(PG-13) 106 minutes**

### **Saturday, 7:30 p.m.**

#### **"Ocean's Eleven" – George Clooney**

Dapper Danny Ocean is a man of action. Less than 24 hours into his parole from a New Jersey penitentiary, he is already rolling out his next plan. Following three rules – don't hurt anybody, don't steal from anyone who doesn't deserve it and play the game like you've got nothing to lose – he orchestrates the most elaborate casino heist in history. **(PG-13) 116 minutes**

### **Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.**

#### **"Joe Somebody" – Tim Allen**

Everybody wants to be somebody and Joe is no exception. But he feels like he's a nobody. He has been passed over for promotion and is faring no better in his personal life. Joe is determined to show everybody he's a somebody to be reckoned with. **(PG) 98 minutes**

## Fitness & Sports



# Ice hockey coming to CAFB?



**By Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones**  
*437 AW Public Affairs*

Two Charleston AFB members are looking to put together an ice hockey team for the Carolina Ice Palace Senior League Summer Season.

Senior Airman Jason Smith, 437<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Public Affairs, and Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Kevin Sexton, 437<sup>th</sup> Services Squadron, have been researching the possibility of a base team, and are now surveying interested players.

"We're working through the Fitness and Sports Center to get together a list of players who would try out for the team," said Smith. "Mr. Parrish (Steve, 437 SVS Fitness and Sports Center director) is behind us, but there are a lot of steps we have to take to make this a reality."

The first step is to find active-duty members who own equipment, and will be available to play in a competitive league, according to Sexton.

"We already have five or six people who said they are definitely in," Sexton said. "We need at least 10 people, but no more than 20

people on the roster before the season starts in early May. Although we still have a few months, we need people to sign up now so we can present our proposal to services (437 SVS) and narrow the roster down to 20 if necessary."

Sexton stressed the importance of finding a goalie first and foremost. According to Ice Palace rules, a team can't even register for the season until they have at least one starting goalie listed on their roster.

"I've never helped put a team together before, but after talking to the folks at the Ice Palace, I guess a goalie is the hardest player to find," said Sexton.

Smith echoed Sexton's sense of urgency in getting together a roster as soon as possible. He said even though practice time will be limited, there are a lot of logistics behind the scene.

"If it were as easy as just finding 20 people to sign a list, we would already have a team," said Smith. "There's a lot more behind the scenes. We need to have a final roster together by mid-February to take care of all the other things

involved in starting a new team."

The Ice Palace offers competition in three divisions. There is an A-, B- and C-League. The A-League is for the more advanced players, and currently only has four teams. The B-League is the most popular division and hosts eight teams. Players should be better than beginners, but not looking to make a career of the sport. Finally, there is a beginner division called the C-League, which has four teams. According to Smith, Ice Palace officials will have the final say on which league players belong in.

"We'll have to wait and see who signs up before we figure out what division we should be in," said Smith. "If everyone is as good as me, we're C-League all the way."

The team fee for a season is \$1,860, according to Ice Palace Officials. The money includes 12 games, playoff games, referees and ice time. Each game consists of three, 20-minute periods.

"We're hoping to get enough sponsorship to cover the team fee," said Sexton. "If you have a 20-person roster, that boils down to less than \$8 per player per game.

That's not bad considering it's \$5 just to go to a public skate and skate in a circle."

Both Smith and Sexton said they are hoping to get maximum base participation, not only because they want to be part of a competitive team, but also because of the base support it could drum up in the local community.

"It would be great for recruiting and community relations," said Smith. "Hockey is really catching on in the Charleston area, and the base has the advantage of hosting folks from all over the country who already love the sport. I also think it would show CAFB support for the local community. We all have been working hard to make Charleston an Air Force town. Let's get out there and continue to build that relationship through sportsmanship."

Anyone interested in playing ice hockey on a base team should e-mail Smith or Sexton as soon as possible. Smith can be e-mailed [jason.smith@charleston.af.mil](mailto:jason.smith@charleston.af.mil) or called at 963-5536. Sexton can be e-mailed [kevin.sexton@charleston.af.mil](mailto:kevin.sexton@charleston.af.mil), or called at 963-3347.